Washington LABOR MARKET

Washington State
Employment Security

Prepared by the
Labor Market And
Economic Analysis Branch
(206) 438-4800
Gary Bodeutsch
Director

In cooperation with the
Employment and Training
Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

January 1991

Highlights

Toward A New Beginning

Washington's economy ended 1990 in fairly typical fashion. Overall business activity eased with the onset of winter, and the buildup for Christmas served as a bright spot in an otherwise lackluster economic month. Severe weather, moreover, lashed the latter part of the period beyond the reporting week of the 12th. Temperatures plummeted to record lows and snow and ice disrupted holiday traffic until the very weekend before Christmas. Caution turned to panic as merchants scrambled to salvage what was left of the holiday buying season. What ensued was essentially a game of "cat and mouse." Sales and product promotions became commonplace causing buyers to put off purchasing until the very last minute in an effort to take advantage of the lowest possible price. If national figures serve as any kind of guide, December sales were probably off but not disastrously.

Volume 15, Number 1

Part of the saving grace was a high degree of caution coming into the season. Overall indexes of consumer confidence had dropped steadily since the invasion of Kuwait early in August. Employment growth had slowed. Real earnings were being siphoned off by higher costs of gasoline and other petroleum-based products. And uncertainties coming out of the Persian Gulf crisis together with a rolling recession nationally weighed heavily upon long-term investment decisions. The results put the economy on hold.

Normal seasonal patterns, however, continued to play out. Construction and much of the resource-based industries scaled back toward their wintertime lows. Temporary election workers, which had swelled local government employment in November, were no longer a factor come December. Retail trade bounded upward with the onset of holiday shopping. But the latter proved less dynamic than witnessed in recent past years. As a result, total nonfarm employment *dropped* by 6,300 workers over the month rather than *increasing* by 2,000 as has been the case on average for December since 1987.

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

The state's jobless rate, accordingly, mounted over the month. The increase from 5.4 percent to 5.7 percent of the workforce contrasted with trends for December in recent past years which had shown virtually no change. The uptick, however, was in line with what could reasonably be expected to occur in an economy shifting to a more restrained overall growth rate. Comparisons remained positive, nonetheless, against the year-earlier and national averages for December at 6.1 percent and 5.9 percent, respectively.

In all likelihood, the low point for unemployment has probably been broached. Progressively higher jobless rates should reasonably be expected from here on out. Additional resources are typically brought into play for a period of time after the peak of the business cycle has passed. In effect, Washington's unemployment rate proceeded to fall through 1990 despite the fact that the

economy probably crested in the first quarter. As output per worker falls back in a slower economic setting, pressure on unemployment will likely mount throughout 1991.

Moreover, differences between the "haves" and "have nots" will likely widen. Much of the economic growth over the past eight years was shared at least to varying degrees across the breadth of the state. Only Seattle-Everett achieved what technically might be called a "full employment" economy. But unemployment fell in all counties between 1982 and 1990. Boeing is looked to provide some degree of insulation from the national slowdown within greater Puget Sound. However, aerospace is not a factor outside the immediate four-county area. In addition, timber supply issues are destined to impact a broad reach of forest products-based counties throughout the state in upcoming months.

Resident Civilian Labor Force

Employment and Unemployment in Washington State

	Dec 1990 *Preliminary*	Nov 1990 *Revised*	Dec 1989
Resident Civilian Labor Force	2,537,700	2,465,000	2,516,100
Employment	2,390,500	2,332,900	2,363,600
Unemployment	145,200	132,100	152,500
Unemployment Rate	5.7%	5.4%	6.1%
National Unemployment Rate	5.9%	5.8%	5.1%

Data in this table are not seasonally adjusted.
Sources: Employment Security Department;
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

Wage and salary employment fell in December for the first time in five years. At the center of the downturn was less than recent past seasonal hiring in retail trade. Payroll additions of 3,100 in this highly important sector over the month measured roughly half the number posted on average for December since 1985. The month-to-month movement, however, was not unique. Wholesale and retail trade had eased over several months ever since consumer confidence began waning early in the fall.

An early end to hostilities in the Middle East will do wonders to restore consumer attitude. But in the interim, the Federal Reserve has acted aggressively to stimulate the economy by systematically cutting interest rates. Whether or not this proves effective in the present environment is anybody's guess. Credit growth, naturally, slows during recessions as hard-hit consumers and businesses cut back on borrowing. This time around, however, there is the added pressure to set aside additional capital and reserves in an effort to strengthen the nation's commercial banking system. The combination is making for less liquidity on the administrative side of the equation at the same time the Fed Open Market Committee is pressing for higher loan demand. Unwillingness of banks to lend is unique in postwar history. The result is that it will take more time than usual for the Fed's actions to effectively stimulate the economy and get the recovery moving.

Services Come Up With A Counter Punch

Washington's services sector, meanwhile, countered in December with a 3,000 worker buildup. Amusements and recreation (+ 1,000) loved the early snowfall as activity at ski facilities mounted steadily over the month. Business services inched up 300. Much of the balance of the uptick centered in health services (+ 1,200) which has continued to expand at a brisk rate over the past several years. Clinics and specialized health care facilities have been the big gainers.

Despite some letup in the rest of the economy, services payrolls measured 28,400 or 6 percent above the prior year in December. The year-to-year spread was little changed from that of December a year before when the margin stood at 30,000. Meanwhile, the total economy over the period dropped by a third. Included in the services category is a broad distribution of activities ranging from personal and business services to computer software. In some instances, demand is generated by households; in others, by a combination of business and export activity. Offsetting entries have been the key to continued strong overall performance.

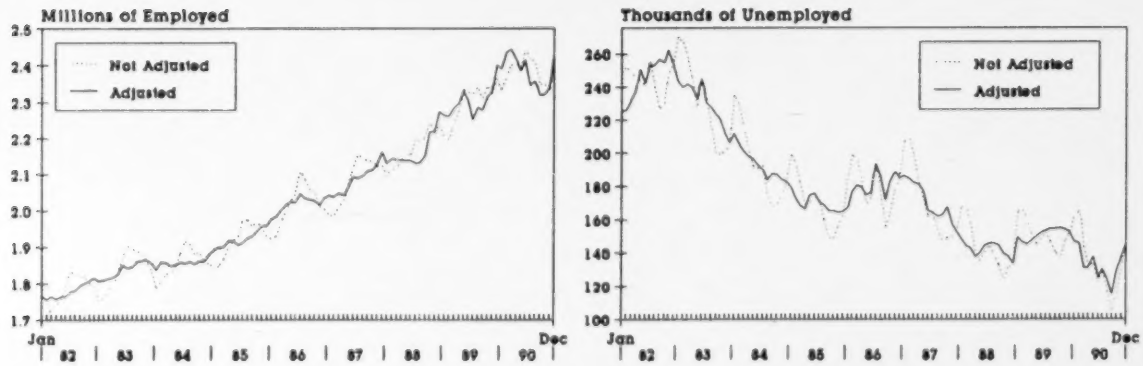
Manufacturing Pulls Back Seasonally

At the same time, manufacturing pulled back by 4,600 – the heaviest loss in industrial payrolls for December since 1984. Declines in food processing (-2,900) and lumber and wood products (-700) appeared fairly typical for the period. Broader impacts arising out of lower national housing starts and other market factors, however, showed up in the 2,200 loss in lumber and wood products jobs over the past 12 months. Yet to be factored into the equation are timber supply constraints coming out of the spotted owl controversy which are expected to cut 6,000 to 7,000 jobs in the industry over the next several years.

In addition, both aerospace (-200) and other transportation equipment manufacturing (-200) retreated marginally over the month. On balance, employment in aircraft manufacturing showed a rather "saucer shaped" pattern in 1990: down in the first half and up marginally in the second half. The net year-end to year-end loss totalled approximately 2,000. Other transportation equipment, including boat building and land vehicles, was off a larger 2,900 over the year.

To a great degree, other manufacturing has held firm. This has provided measurable strength in the key goods-producing sector at a time when manufacturing nationally is dropping sharply. Over the year, payrolls in December were up significantly in machinery (+ 800), food processing (+ 1,000), and chemicals (+ 700).

Washington State Total Resident Employment and Unemployment
January 1982 - December 1990



Source: Employment Security Department

REVIEW AND PROSPECT

Enough about the month-to-month movements. Beginning of the new year provides a golden opportunity to quickly look back over the year past and appraise the outlook for the year ahead. In very real terms, 1990 marked a turning point. Employment over the prior seven years had built at rates not seen since the "Boeing Boom" of the late 1960s. The state entered the 1990s on a high with nonfarm employment building in the first quarter at a 7 percent seasonally adjusted annual rate. By the second quarter, however, the pace had eased to 2.2 percent, and the momentum trailed off thereafter through the balance of the year. At no time did the pace turn negative. But the state now enters 1991 on a much softer footing.

What became a rolling recession nationally to date has only lightly touched the Pacific Northwest economies. Washington specifically has maintained an edge over the national average because of a number built-in stabilizers. Included are Boeing's huge commercial backlog, strong export demand for Washington-based goods and services, fallout from gains already achieved in the goods-producing sectors, and continued very rapid population and income growth. The combination has kept a margin of growth above the national average running better than 2 to 1.

Much of the slowing over the past year centered in manufacturing and, specifically, aerospace and lumber and wood products. Both scaled back from highs coming into 1990. Sheer momentum in aerospace had probably accounted for 30 percent of the state's cumulative growth from 1982 through 1989. As that industry shifted from growth to retrenchment, some of the fire which had ignited the state was removed.

Lumber and wood products pulled back over the course of the year as its principal market – national housing starts – plunged to levels not seen since the 1981-82 recession. In addition, the year was impacted by decisions to limit available timber harvest. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in June 1990 officially listed the spotted owl as threatened, thereby putting into place a series of measures designed to protect old

growth habitat. Proposed cutbacks on U.S. Forest Service land alone are expected to cost between 6,000 and 7,000 lumber and wood products workers in the state.

Responding to the strength in capital investment, markets for both machinery and primary metals held firm throughout most of 1990. Aluminum production drifted lower late in the year. But employment in industrial and electronic equipment was up 800 over the year in the fourth quarter. Despite progressive slowing of the national economy, businesses boosted real capital spending on plant and equipment an estimated 5 percent last year.

Another encouraging trend was the uptick in chemicals employment owing to the turnabout at Hanford. Environmental restoration work is providing most of the thrust. However, additional work in molecular science and other high technology transfer is adding to the total. Payrolls within the industry, accordingly, climbed 700 over the year after dropping 2,200 in the 15 months to April 1989.

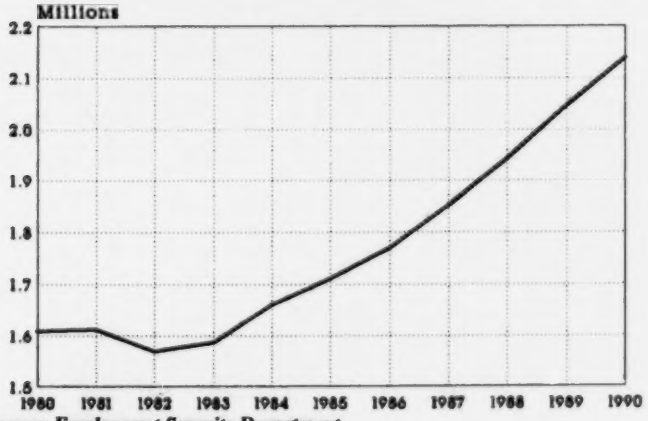
Construction employment in 1990 mounted to an all-time high. Housing eased, but nonresidential building and public works more than made up the difference. Major industrial and commercial projects continue to move to the forefront. The Boeing Company, with expansions underway at Renton and Auburn, announced plans late in 1990 to add 4 million additional square feet at Everett and build two new plants near Tacoma. Entry into Spokane has been completed. Work proceeds on the Navy homeport at Everett. And soon to impact is $2 billion in construction at the state's four petroleum refineries estimated to require 4,000 to 4,500 workers over the next five years.

Services and trade, however, continue to provide the bulk of the state's total job growth. The driving force in both cases is a combination of primary and secondary impacts. Population is expanding rapidly at a pace significantly greater than the national average. Fallout from growth already achieved in the goods-producing sector is boosting demand for business and personnel supply services, two of the fastest growing sectors of the

economy. Exports of Washington-based goods and services, including computer software, have been strong. Moreover, that thrust should continue through 1991.

The state outlook assumes a weakening first half with a pickup beginning about mid-year. The Office of the Forecast Council looks to a rather shallow employment dip of something less than 1 percent on a seasonally adjusted annual basis statewide for January through June. And then a gradual heightening leading toward the state's long-range historical average of 2.8 percent by the fourth quarter. Given the prospect that the national recession will be relatively mild and relatively short-lived, these kinds of assumptions for the state make sense.

Wage and Salary Employment
State of Washington
(annual averages in thousands)



Source: Employment Security Department

AREA TRENDS

Urban vs. Rural: A Bigger Trigger

With the economy retracting seasonally into the winter months, joblessness throughout the state heightened in December. The metropolitan areas generally were less affected than the outlying areas owing to the concentration of less sensitive services and trade activities. But on balance, all areas shared the swing. Unemployment in Washington's major urban centers moved from 4.8 percent to 5.1 percent over the month and stood 0.4 percent below a year before. The extremes ranged from a low of 3.9 percent in the Seattle PMSA to a high of 14.1 percent in the Franklin County portion of the Tri-Cities. Tacoma and Spokane hovered near a the statewide average at 5.6 percent and 6.0 percent, respectively.

Both the timber-dependent and agricultural economies contracted sharply in December. Normal pattern would dictate a seasonal low extending well into the first quarter. Accordingly, unemployment mounted in the forest products areas of western Washington from 8.9 percent to 9.5 percent of the workforce over the month. Eastern Washington jumped from 8.1 percent to 8.9 percent. The timber-dependent counties were little changed from a year before, but eastern Washington held lower by nearly a full percentage point.

INDUSTRY NOTES

Boeing Hangs Numbers On The Big Picture

In the face of recession, Boeing scaled back only slightly its long-term world jetliner forecast. The world's largest commercial aircraft manufacturer expects the industry to deliver nearly 9,000 planes valued at roughly $617 billion over the next 15 years. The year ago forecast was higher by 2 percent. Air travel is assumed to climb 5.2 percent per year on average through 2005, more than doubling over the next decade and a half. Comments acknowledged that the airlines are going through some rough times currently. But the long-range fundamentals remain intact. A reversal of the current slide is expected

sometime around 1993 with the market then rebounding to levels higher than before. Should the forecast prove out, Boeing stands to be the big winner with an historic market share of 55 percent and the new widebody 777 standing in the wings.

Transportation Equipment Set To Trim It Sales

Slumping heavy truck sales has forced PACCAR to reduce employment at its Seattle area plants. The recession together with higher fuel prices has heavily impacted the trucking industry generally and, in turn, manufacturers who serve that industry. PACCAR's fourth quarter sales were off 16 percent to $679 million from $813 million a year before. About a third of its Seattle workforce was laid off in January and another 120 are expected to be trimmed in the next month to 850 workers.

At the same time, Boeing predicted only minor adjustments to its employment base in 1991. Company officials predicted a 2,000 net job loss for the year as whole – roughly coincident with 1990. Most will come through attrition. On the whole, this is looked to be a relatively stable influence on the 1991 outlook. Boeing's backlog currently exceeds 1,800 planes valued at $100 billion with production scheduled to rise to a record 438 planes this year.

Yo Go Windows

As if anyone into computers needed to be reminded, Microsoft is on a roll. Sales and profits of the Redmond-based software giant jumped more than 50 percent in its second fiscal quarter ending December 31st. Sales topped $460 million. Greater than 50 percent of total revenue came directly from foreign exports with particular strength in European markets. A major boost was provided by phenomenal success of Microsoft's Windows 3.0 program which has sold more than 2 million copies since its introduction in May. Employment is expected to build steadily over the next year.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

Fourth Quarter GNP Flounders

The U.S. economy contracted at a 2 percent annual rate in the final quarter of 1990 – definitive proof that longest expansion in peacetime history has ended. The fall was not as sharp as most government and private analysts had expected based upon a wide variety of supporting evidence. However, the impact of the military buildup and heightened foreign exports were viewed as temporary aberrations. The fourth quarter decline was the biggest since the 1981-82 recession and was attributed to a huge $21 billion falloff in consumer spending. More is expected in the current quarter although not as severe.

Short Recession Say The Pundits

Two consecutive quarters of declining GNP is normally proof enough that the nation has slipped into recession. But an overwhelming majority of the nation's top economists predict that the current setback will be shorter and less severe than average. The past eight recessions since 1945 have averaged 11 months duration with the economy slipping an average of 2.5 percent. The consensus forecast is a drop in GNP of roughly 1 percent over two quarters with an upturn beginning this spring.

And The Tea Leaves Say You're Right

Early signs of improvement are finally starting to appear. The economy is certainly not yet out of the woods. However, the latest release of the Commerce Department's index of leading indicators gave the first hint of a stirring. This major gauge designed to measure economic trends six to nine months away rose slightly by 0.1 percent in December – the first increase since June. Driving the index higher were gains in stock prices, the length of the workweek, and orders for plant and equipment. Still weak were building permits and manufacturers' orders for consumer goods. Clearly, the consumer is the key.

Help In the Pocketbook

If anything will help push the consumer, it's more income. The December gain in personal income was recorded at 0.7 percent – the largest since a similar 0.7 percent in March. Wages and salaries, the key component, jumped $26.8 billion after falling $2.2 billion a month before. Longer hours and higher pay both contributed. For the year as a whole, incomes grew 6 percent in 1990 following a 7.7 percent spurt in 1989. All of the added income was spent, with consumer purchasing up an equal 6 percent over the year. The nation's savings rate remained virtually unchanged at 4.5 percent.

And Help On the Inflation Front

Some easing of inflation is also taking place. Price increases at the producer level have slowed since last summer. And many economists expect inflationary pressures to continue moderating as the economy remains weak. The producer price index declined 0.6 percent in December – the sharpest drop in four years. Both energy and food prices fell precipitously. Excluding these two volatile components, the so-called "core rate" rose a moderate 0.3 percent. Producer prices for all of 1990 were up 5.6 percent – the biggest jump since 1981.

Consumer Price Index

(All items, Urban Consumers, 1982-1984 = 100)

	Indexes			% Change From	
U.S. City Average	Dec 90 133.8	Nov 90 133.8	Dec 89 126.1	Nov 90 0.0%	Dec 89 6.1%
Seattle†	Jul-Dec 1990 129.4	Jul-Dec 1989 119.6		Jul-Dec 1989 8.2%	

†The index for Seattle reflects prices in King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties.
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Prepared by Dennis Fusco, Chief Economist
Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers in Washington State, Place of Work[1]

(In Thousands) (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Industry	Dec 1990 (Prel)	Nov 1990 (Rev)	Dec 1989 (Rev)	Nov 1989 (Rev)	Numeric Change: Nov 1990 to Dec 1990	Numeric Change: Dec 1989 to Dec 1990
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY	2,173.5	2,179.8	2,105.1	2,103.8	-6.3	68.4
MANUFACTURING	359.9	364.5	366.4	369.4	-4.6	-6.5
Durable Goods	255.3	257.2	262.9	262.9	-1.9	-7.6
Lumber & Wood Products	38.5	39.2	40.7	40.6	-0.7	-2.2
Furniture & Fixtures	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.1	-0.2	0.0
Stone, Clay, & Glass	7.3	7.4	7.6	7.6	-0.1	-0.3
Primary Metals	12.5	12.6	12.9	13.0	-0.1	-0.4
Aluminum	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metals	12.3	12.3	11.9	12.2	0.0	0.4
Industrial Machinery & Equipment	19.7	19.6	19.2	19.2	0.1	0.5
Electronic & Other Elect. Equipment	12.3	12.3	12.0	11.9	0.0	0.3
Transportation Equipment	128.4	128.8	133.3	133.2	-0.4	-4.9
Aircraft and Parts	114.3	114.5	116.3	116.2[3]	-0.2	-2.0
Instruments & Related	13.7	14.1	14.9	14.9	-0.4	-1.2
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.4	6.5	6.2	6.2	-0.1	0.2
Nondurable Goods	104.6	107.3	103.5	106.5	-2.7	1.1
Food & Kindred Products	34.9	37.8	33.9	37.2	-2.9	1.0
Preserved Fruits & Vegetables	11.0	13.8	10.8	14.0	-2.8	0.2
Textiles, Apparel, & Leather	7.7	7.7	8.0	8.1	0.0	-0.3
Paper & Allied Products	18.1[2]	18.1[2]	18.7	18.3	0.0	-0.6
Printing & Publishing	22.4	22.3	22.3	22.2	0.1	0.1
Chemicals & Allied Products	13.3	13.2	12.6	12.5	0.1	0.7
Petroleum, Coal, Plastics	8.2	8.2	8.0	8.2	0.0	0.2
MINING & QUARRYING	3.8	3.9	3.5	3.6	-0.1	0.3
CONSTRUCTION	119.8	123.2	109.1	112.1	-3.4	10.7
TRANSPORT., COMM., & UTILITIES	114.8	115.1	111.9	111.3	-0.3	2.9
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	541.1	538.0[2]	522.6	516.3	3.1	18.5
Wholesale Trade	132.4	133.1	128.3	128.3	-0.7	4.1
Retail Trade	408.7	404.9	394.3	388.0	3.8	14.4
General Merchandise	42.5	40.9	45.5	42.8	1.6	-3.0
Food Stores	67.7	67.7[2]	65.5	64.5	0.0	2.2
Eating & Drinking	144.5	144.6	134.8	134.9	-0.1	9.7
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	117.8	117.8	115.1	114.0	0.0	2.7
Finance	53.1	53.2	52.6	51.8	-0.1	0.5
SERVICES	515.3	512.3	486.9	485.3	3.0	28.4
Hotels & Lodging	26.9	26.9	25.9	25.9	0.0	1.0
Business Services	84.5	84.3	79.6	79.4	0.2	4.9
Health Services	154.3	153.1	144.6	143.1	1.2	9.7
Hospitals	50.8	50.4	47.8	47.4	0.4	3.0
GOVERNMENT	401.0	405.0	389.4	391.7	-4.0	11.6
Federal	73.2	73.4	72.2	72.2	-0.2	1.0
State	118.4	118.9	114.4	115.1	-0.5	4.0
State Education	62.2	63.4	62.0	62.5	-1.2	0.2
Local	209.4	212.7	202.8	204.4	-3.3	6.6
Local Education	111.9	111.9	108.9	109.7	0.0	3.0
LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES	0.3	0.9	0.0	0.0	-0.6	0.3

[1]Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

[2]Workers involved in labor-management dispute.

[3]Labor dispute in aircaft affecting 42,900 workers from October 4 to November 22 not reflected as workers were on the job a portion of the pay period which included the 12th of the month.

Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis

Resident Labor Force and Employment in Washington State and Labor Market Areas

Date: 1/31/91
Benchmark: 1989

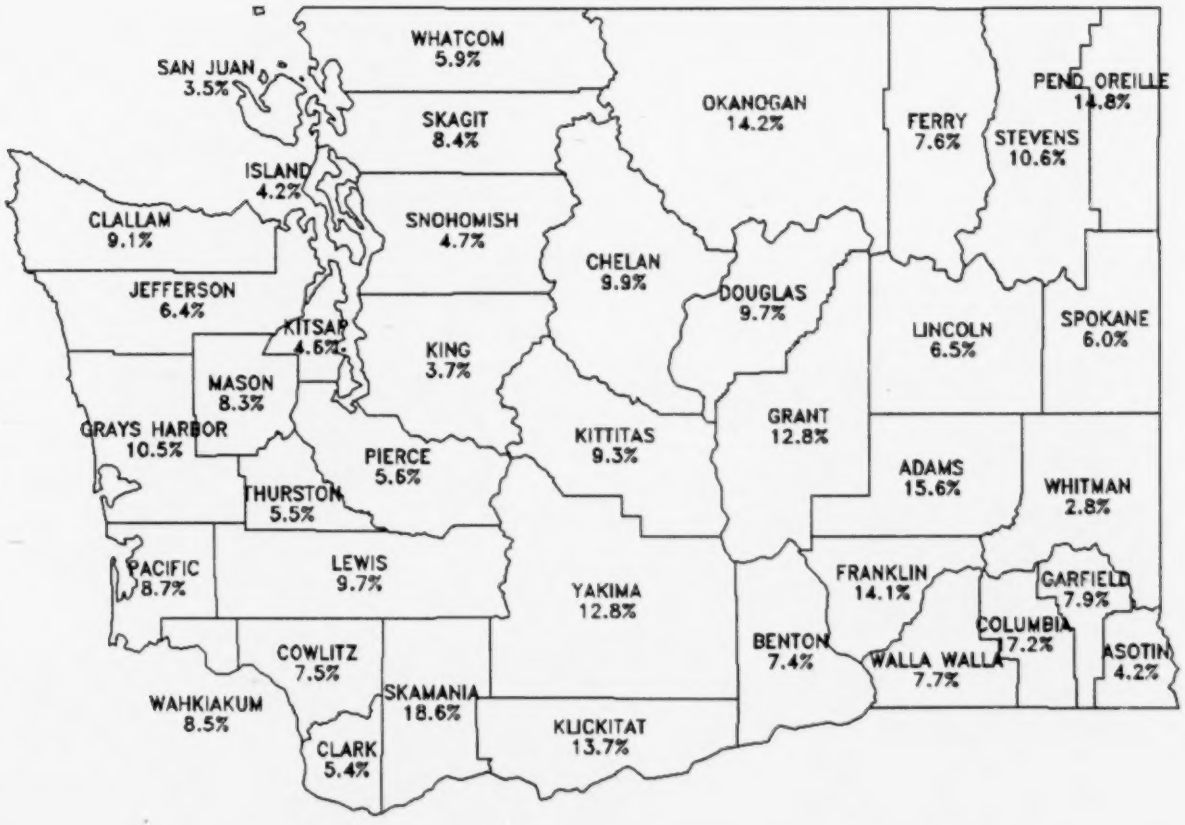
Not Seasonally Adjusted

	December 1990 Preliminary†				November 1990 Revised†				December 1989 Revised†			
	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate
Washington State Total	2,535,700	2,390,500	145,200	5.7	2,465,000	2,332,900	132,100	5.4	2,516,100	2,363,600	152,500	6.1
Bellingham MSA	69,500	65,400	4,100	5.9	67,900	64,300	3,600	5.3	67,500	63,300	4,200	6.2
Bremerton MSA	82,700	78,900	3,800	4.6	80,400	76,600	3,800	4.7	82,500	78,500	4,000	4.8
Olympia MSA	85,800	81,100	4,700	5.5	83,600	79,000	4,600	5.5	84,500	79,400	5,100	6.0
Seattle PMSA	1,157,800	1,112,200	45,600	3.9	1,119,500	1,078,300	41,200	3.7	1,144,400	1,096,400	48,000	4.2
King County‡	912,800	878,800	34,000	3.7	883,000	851,900	31,100	3.5	902,900	866,300	36,600	4.1
Snohomish County‡	245,100	233,500	11,600	4.7	236,400	226,300	10,100	4.3	241,500	230,100	11,400	4.7
Spokane MSA	177,200	166,500	10,700	6.0	171,500	162,200	9,300	5.4	175,200	163,300	11,900	6.8
Tacoma PMSA	259,700	245,200	14,500	5.6	254,700	241,500	13,200	5.2	261,100	246,600	14,500	5.6
Tri-Cities MSA	70,900	64,500	6,400	9.0	69,000	63,100	5,900	8.6	70,000	63,000	7,000	10.0
Benton County‡	54,400	50,400	4,000	7.4	53,100	49,400	3,700	7.0	53,900	49,300	4,600	8.5
Franklin County‡	16,300	14,000	2,300	14.1	15,900	13,700	2,200	13.8	16,100	13,700	2,400	14.9
Vancouver PMSA	128,800	121,900	6,900	5.4	125,100	118,600	6,500	5.2	128,000	120,700	7,300	5.7
Yakima MSA	94,700	82,600	12,100	12.8	93,800	82,400	11,400	12.2	96,500	82,600	13,900	14.4
Adams	6,340	5,350	990	15.6	6,180	5,340	840	13.6	6,610	5,350	1,260	19.1
Asotin	9,930	9,510	420	4.2	9,670	9,260	410	4.2	9,590	9,070	520	5.4
Clallam	24,570	22,340	2,230	9.1	24,110	22,030	2,080	8.6	24,970	22,780	2,190	8.8
Columbia	1,630	1,350	280	17.2	1,500	1,270	230	15.3	1,610	1,310	300	18.6
Cowlitz	38,890	35,990	2,900	7.5	38,290	35,440	2,850	7.4	39,310	36,090	3,220	8.2
Ferry	3,290	3,040	250	7.6	3,190	2,970	220	6.9	3,260	2,900	360	11.0
Garfield	1,010	930	80	7.9	960	920	40	4.2	1,090	1,000	90	8.3
Grant	25,160	21,930	3,230	12.8	24,800	22,100	2,700	10.9	24,840	21,910	2,930	11.8
Grays Harbor	28,270	25,300	2,970	10.5	27,150	24,310	2,840	10.5	28,610	25,470	3,140	11.0
Island	22,350	21,420	930	4.2	21,740	20,820	920	4.2	21,870	20,900	970	4.4
Jefferson	9,020	8,440	580	6.4	8,790	8,270	520	5.9	8,800	8,210	590	6.7
Kittitas	12,210	11,080	1,130	9.3	12,260	11,290	970	7.9	11,970	10,840	1,130	9.4
Klickitat	7,890	6,810	1,080	13.7	7,780	6,930	850	10.9	7,970	6,810	1,160	14.6
Lewis	26,220	23,680	2,540	9.7	25,000	22,890	2,110	8.4	27,060	24,600	2,460	9.1
Lincoln	4,290	4,010	280	6.5	4,160	3,920	240	5.8	4,180	3,960	220	5.3
Mason	15,130	13,870	1,260	8.3	14,790	13,710	1,080	7.3	14,530	13,460	1,070	7.4
Okanogan	16,290	13,970	2,320	14.2	16,200	14,210	1,990	12.3	15,860	13,720	2,140	13.5
Pacific	7,470	6,820	650	8.7	7,500	6,720	780	10.4	7,770	6,950	820	10.6
Pend Oreille	3,240	2,760	480	14.8	3,110	2,690	420	13.5	3,390	2,840	550	16.2
San Juan	5,360	5,170	190	3.5	5,450	5,250	200	3.7	5,080	4,860	220	4.3
Skagit	40,160	36,790	3,370	8.4	39,520	36,380	3,140	7.9	37,440	34,260	3,180	8.5
Skamania	2,260	1,840	420	18.6	2,120	1,820	300	14.2	2,250	1,850	400	17.8
Stevens	11,840	10,580	1,260	10.6	11,540	10,380	1,160	10.1	12,270	11,120	1,150	9.4
Wahkiakum	1,290	1,180	110	8.5	1,290	1,160	130	10.1	1,370	1,220	150	10.9
Walla Walla	24,660	22,760	1,900	7.7	24,150	22,780	1,370	5.7	24,610	22,680	1,930	7.8
Wenatchee Labor Area	40,290	36,330	3,960	9.8	39,170	35,540	3,630	9.3	39,580	35,570	4,010	10.1
Chelan County‡	26,730	24,090	2,640	9.9	26,020	23,560	2,460	9.5	26,200	23,580	2,620	10.0
Douglas County‡	13,570	12,250	1,320	9.7	13,150	11,980	1,170	8.9	13,380	11,990	1,390	10.4
Whitman	19,670	19,110	560	2.8	19,220	18,670	550	2.9	20,550	20,030	520	2.5

†Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. ‡Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology. Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.

DECEMBER 1990 UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

STATE OF WASHINGTON = 5.7%



Estimated Average Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing and of Nonsupervisory Workers in Nonmanufacturing Activities, Washington State

	Preliminary December Production Workers & Nonsupervisory Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Dec 90	Nov 90	Dec 89	Dec 90	Nov 90	Dec 89	Dec 90	Nov 90	Dec 89
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES[1]	210,056	$533.57	$520.22	$507.38	40.3	39.5	40.3	$13.24	$13.17	$12.59
SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Lumber and Wood Products	31,650	$457.82	$455.04	$444.44	38.7	37.5	40.7	$11.83	$11.72	$10.92
Primary Metal Industries	9,961	$597.52	$574.38	$560.73	44.0	42.8	43.1	$13.58	$13.42	$13.01
Fabricated Metal Products	9,902	$509.64	$488.81	$486.80	41.3	40.7	40.0	$12.34	$12.01	$12.17
Machinery	20,272	$447.45	$430.66	$404.81	40.9	40.4	40.4	$10.94	$10.66	$10.02
Food and Kindred Products	24,374	$379.94	$357.92	$353.07	38.3	36.3	35.7	$9.92	$9.86	$9.89
Chemical and Allied Products	4,664	$721.73	$666.76	$671.58	44.8	42.2	43.3	$16.11	$15.80	$15.51
Transportation Equipment	57,500	$675.96	$678.30	$619.66	41.7	42.0	41.7	$16.21	$16.15	$14.86
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction	90,193	$628.07	$632.45	$667.78	36.2	36.6	38.4	$17.35	$17.28	$17.39
Wholesale and Retail Trade (Includes eating and drinking establishments)	481,094	$299.22	$285.82	$276.89	31.9	30.8	30.8	$9.38	$9.28	$8.99

[1]Average hourly earnings for all manufacturing production workers reported in this table do not exactly reflect the official US Bureau of Labor Statistics definition of "wages." While these data still constitute a valid economic indicator series, they should not be used at this time for the negotiation of contracts whose monetary provisions may depend upon official US Bureau of Labor Statistics hourly earning data.

Washington State
Employment Security
Labor Market and
Economic Analysis Branch
212 Maple Park
Mail Stop KG-11
Olympia, WA 98504-5311

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
enalty For Private Use $300

WLM

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB-449

☐ If you no longer wish to receive this publication, please check here and return this cover to the above address.

If your address has changed, please indicate new address below and return this cover to the above address.

_____

_____

_____

CONGRESSIONAL INFO SERVICE
SRI
4520 EAST WEST HIWY
BETHESDA MD 20814